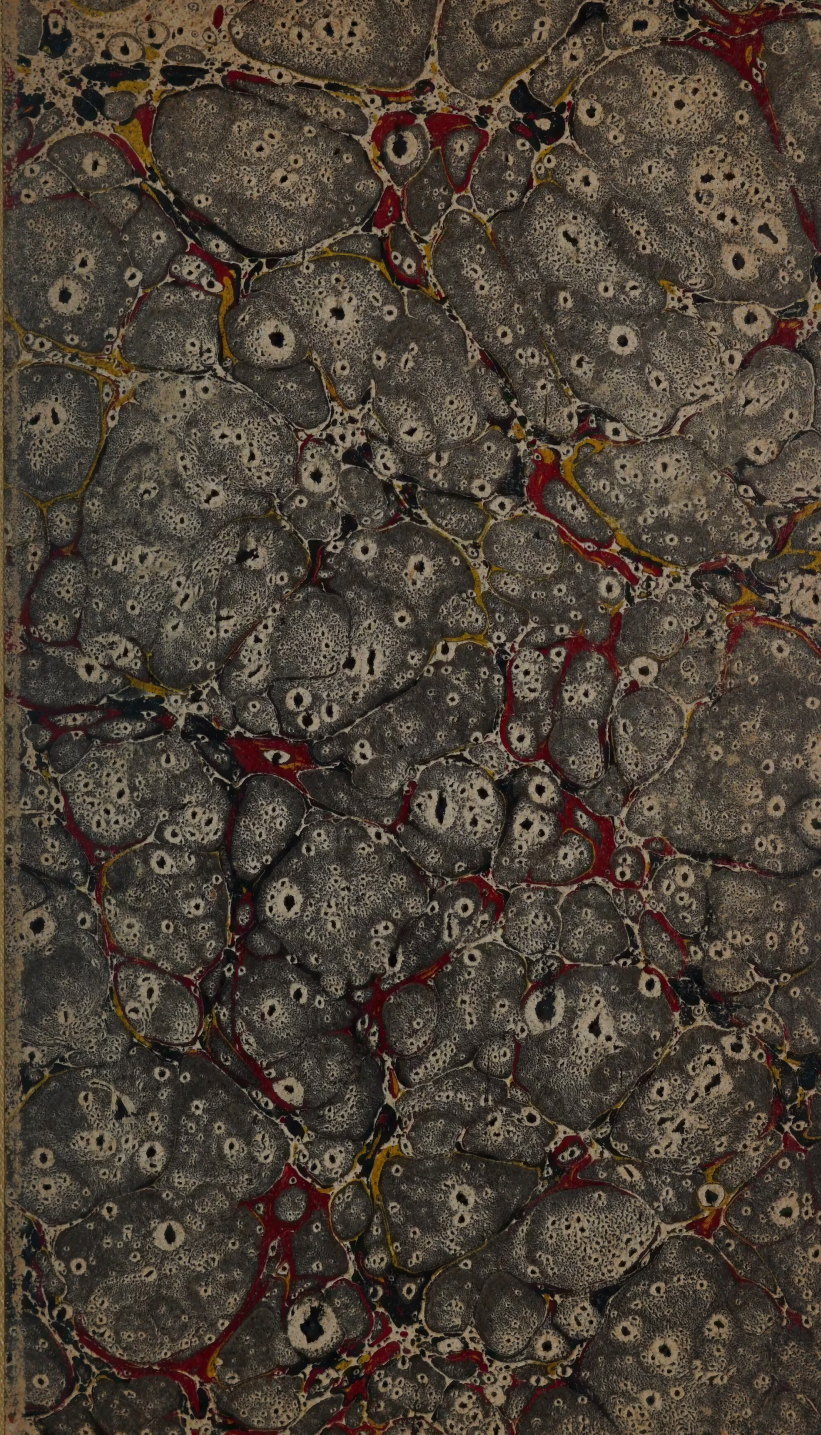

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TO THE FRIENDS OF THE ANTI-SLAVERY ADVOCATE.

When, about two years since, some friends of the anti-slavery cause projected the publication of the *Anti-slavery Advocate*, they did not do so without counting the cost. They were aware that although chattel slavery is viewed by the vast majority of their countrymen with disgust and horror, as an institution hostile to religion, morality, and social progress, yet, from the remoteness of the countries in which it prevails, and the fact that it has been abolished by law throughout the British empire, much dangerous ignorance and indifference exist respecting it. They felt that whilst an institution so base and inhuman in its character flourishes in the United States of America, amongst a people united to us by identity of language, literature, and religion, whose institutions so nearly resemble our own, and between whom and ourselves an incessant commercial, social, and religious intercourse prevails, it was of unspeakable importance that the true character and workings of the portentous system should be fully understood in Great Britain and Ireland.

A great and increasing number of American travellers, including many ministers of religion, come amongst us as delegates from ecclesiastical bodies, on religious and philanthropic missions, or for purposes of business, pleasure, or investigation; and it is certain that if we do not influence these by our views of impartial liberty, they, with very few exceptions, will be likely to inoculate us with those insidious pro-slavery sentiments which unhappily prevail in the United States.

Nations united by so many ties as England and America *must* react upon each other for good or evil. It is, then, surely our duty to assist those who are labouring in the United States for the overthrow of a system, which operates against all the best interests of that great country with a just retribution. And even if we could do little to assist the American abolitionists, (who have repeatedly assured us that our countenance and aid afford them great encouragement,) we should still be bound to smooth the onward march of sound principles amongst our own countrymen, by showing that no nation, no matter how great her natural advantages, can prosper in the best sense, whilst a system of injustice so glaring as slavery is upheld on grounds of selfish expediency by the great majority of the people.

Under these impressions, it was believed that some such publication as the *Anti-slavery Advocate* was required in England, the object of which should be to present to British readers the workings of American slavery, and to exhibit the efforts which have been and are now being made by the abolitionists to undermine and overthrow that gigantic obstacle to the best interests of their own country, and, through her, to those of the whole world.

The attempt to establish the *Advocate* was made by its projectors with a sense of their own inability fully to attain the

objects at which it aimed. But it is satisfactory to know that the American abolitionists, whose long experience renders them competent judges, have pronounced warm and repeated encomiums on the correctness of the views upheld by the *Advocate*, and the distinctness with which it enunciates those great principles of truth and justice which form the foundation of the anti-slavery enterprise. From many such testimonies the following are selected:—

From the Boston *Liberator*.

"We have read this number with peculiar satisfaction. We confess to something of a feeling of surprise at the well-matured and remarkably correct views of the American slave system which are to be found in its every column; —such views as, it is generally supposed, only a residence in the United States, and an intimate acquaintance with the history, customs, and prejudices, institutions, and men of the country, can enable one to obtain. We do not remember to have seen any publication from the other side of the water, which can compare with this number of the *Anti-slavery Advocate* in these respects. Its positions are carefully taken, and sustained by sound argument and abundant testimony—testimony which neither the slaveholder nor his northern abettor can deny to be competent. Its perception upon the leading influences which go to sustain, strengthen, and increase the slaveholding power, and which also seek to disparage and thwart the efforts of the friends of impartial freedom, is clear, and in our view entirely just. Fairness and candour seem to govern the writers in the formation and in the utterance of their opinions; the spirit and temper of the paper being dignified and courteous, and at the same time brave and earnest.

"We cannot but deeply rejoice in the appearance of such a paper. Knowing how much misconception there is of the anti-slavery movement in the minds of the British people, and what infinite pains have been taken by its enemies, here and abroad, to create that misconception, and to defame the men and women who have given themselves the most entirely to this movement,—representing them as the advocates of whatever is vile and hateful in the sight of God and all good men,—knowing this, we see how great a necessity exists for a journal published on British ground, made up wholly by British minds, which shall present to the British public an impartial, honest, and reliable view of the whole matter; which shall take no partisan, or sectarian, or one-sided view; which shall be pledged to no particular theory, and (as the *Advocate* claims for itself) "to no particular party" in America. Such a journal has long been needed; for British pro-slavery, cupidity, and bigotry have long been working to undermine every American anti-slavery influence. It is greatly needed at this time for the purpose of telling the truth, the whole truth; of spreading a knowledge of American anti-slavery as it is, and of exposing calumny; in order to awaken every true lover of freedom in Great Britain and Ireland to do his duty to three millions of SLAVES in the American *Republic*. And, so far as an opinion can be formed from a single number, we believe that such a journal has at length been established, and will be found in the *Anti-slavery Advocate*. The paper is evidently the work of persons who have brought intelligence, honesty, and deep sympathy to the investigation of this great subject. With these views, we hardly need add that we shall look with very deep interest for the future numbers of the paper. The present number is, in itself, a capital anti-slavery tract; and we hope it may find its way to tens of thousands of British and Irish hands and hearts, and be the means, as it is so well fitted to be, of dispelling the cloud of prejudice and indifference which now rests over the subject, and of hastening the day which shall give deliverance to the captive, and set at liberty them that are bruised."

From the same.

"We have never seen the anti-slavery periodical which contained so much important and indispensable information, and condensed in so small space, as these numbers of the *Advocate* have presented."—*Liberator*, June 24, 1853.

From the New York *Anti-slavery Standard.*

"The [London] *Anti-slavery Advocate* for August has just reached us. It contains a large amount of information, condensed, with rare judgment and skill, into a very small space. It deals with American slavery in the way best calculated to enlighten and guide to wise ends the public sentiment of Great Britain. Its sketches of the abolition movement in the United States, its statistics respecting slavery, and its exposures of pro-slavery clergymen from this country travelling in Great Britain, all evince a thorough acquaintance with the great question of our age, rare powers of discrimination, and a heart alive to every ennobling sentiment. We never take up a number of the *Advocate* without feeling deeply grateful to the friends who established so valuable a channel of intercommunication between the abolitionists of Great Britain."

From the *Pennsylvania Freeman.*

"The London *Anti-slavery Advocate*, for October, begins its second year under auspices far more encouraging, we believe, than those with which it came into being a year ago. This year has proved it not merely an important and useful auxiliary, but a necessity of our cause in Great Britain. No measure could have been more judicious in its conception or opportune in its execution than the establishment of the *Advocate*. The wisdom of that scheme, and the fidelity and skill with which it has been accomplished, are put beyond all question by the journal itself during its first year. It has breathed a new life into the anti-slavery movement in England. It has been a new medium of communication between the abolitionists of the two continents, and the means of concentrating and guiding to practical results a vast amount of anti-slavery feeling and sentiment, which before rarely, if ever, found an expression in fitting action. The *Advocate* has been conducted with singular ability and discretion. It has combined unswerving adherence to principle and boldness of speech with true dignity and courtesy of manner, commending all sincere devotion to the oppressed with unstinted praise, and exposing fair-faced hypocrisies and noisy pretensions with an unsparing hand. We rejoice to learn that its character and its labors are finding their true appreciation, that its circulation and influence are widening more and more among the friends of the slave in Great Britain; and we trust that while one human being wears the fetters of the slave, its clear light will never wane, nor its manly voice be hushed."

It was foreseen that a penny publication containing one-third as much matter as the *Athenæum*, which sells for 6d., and two-thirds as much as the *Anti-slavery Reporter*, which sells for 3d., would require, in order to defray its expenses, a much larger sale than could be counted upon; yet the paper was commenced, relying upon the promises of many sympathizing friends to contribute to supply the deficiency, as soon as a trial had been made and the result ascertained.

A statement is given herewith of the receipts and expenditure of the *Advocate* for fifteen months, from October, 1852, to December, 1853. In the commencement of any periodical there are many indispensable preliminary expenses, such as advertising, gratuitous circulation, &c. These form heavy items in the account now furnished, but are not likely to recur; so that, whilst the average cost of the first fifteen numbers has been about £12 each, future

numbers are not likely to exceed £9 at the utmost; and if £100 could be obtained by sales and contributions, the publication of the *Advocate* would be secured for another year. The object of the present appeal is to obtain a sufficient sum to cover the deficiency of £40 3s. 3d. in the receipts for the first fifteen months, and to provide for the continuance of the paper for at least another year. Great pains have been taken to secure all reasonable economy. The editorship is gratuitous, the paper is supplied at wholesale cost prices, and many of the ordinary expenses of such publications are saved by voluntary assistance.

If by the efforts of some other friends the *Anti-slavery Advocate* were introduced into localities where it is not yet known, the sale might be increased so as greatly to diminish or even altogether dispense with the necessity of contributions for its support. A sale of at least 5000 would be requisite to make the paper self-supporting. But in order to render it a useful publication it must be sold at a very low price ; and, in common with all papers issued for the promotion of special branches of moral reform, some loss must be expected, which can be met only by the bounty of those who participate in the sentiments to which the *Anti-Slavery Advocate* owes its origin.

Statement of Income and Expenditure of the ANTI-SLAVERY ADVOCATE *for fifteen months, from October*, 1852, *to December*, 1853, *both inclusive.*

Income.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
Advocates sold	50	15	11	Printing	81	4	5
Donations	71	10	0	Paper (76 reams)	48	18	8
Advertisements	2	3	0	Newspaper stamps and postage	26	0	7
Advocates on hand	12	3	5	Carriage of parcels	6	9	5
DEFICIENT	40	3	3	Advertising	9	19	0
				Incidental expenses	4	3	6
	£176	15	7		£176	15	

Audited and found to be correct { ISAAC STEPHENS. EDWIN CHAPMAN.

List of Donations.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Richard Allen, Dublin	5	0	0	Miss Martineau, Ambleside	0	10	0
Wilson Armistead, Leeds	1	0	0	D. M'Donnell, London	2	2	0
William Ashurst, London	6	0	0	Mrs. Michell, Bridgwater	10	0	0
T. W. Bagehot, Langport	5	0	0	Rev. S. Alfred Steinthal, do.	0	10	0
Edward Bagehot, do.	5	0	0	William Tweedie, London	0	13	0
Rev. Edwin Chapman, Bristol	10	0	0	Miss Wigham, Edinburgh	0	10	0
Mrs. General Dighton, Newland	1	0	0	Richard D. Webb, Dublin	5	0	0
J. B. Estlin, Bristol	20	0	0				
Two Friends	0	5	0		£71	10	0

Contributions in aid of the *Anti-slavery Advocate* will be received by D. M'Donnell, 144, St. John-street Road, and William Tweedie, 337, Strand, London; by Henry Wigham, 5, Gray-street, Edinburgh; and R. D. Webb, 176, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin.

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